



**Rensselaer
County
Republican
Committee**

JAMES A. WALSH, Chairman

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL

FEB 16 11 52 AM '00

February 15, 2000

Via Federal Express

Lawrence M Noble, Esq.
Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 4954

Dear Mr. Noble:

This letter is in response to a complaint filed with your office by Forbes 2000, Inc. against the Rensselaer County Republican Committee and myself. I am not an attorney and have had only limited experience dealing with the Federal election law and your agency. I would, however, like to make the following points in rebuttal to the Forbes 2000, Inc. complaint:

- (1) I am the Chairman of the Rensselaer County Republican Committee. The New York Republican State Committee has endorsed and supports the candidacy of George W. Bush for the office of President of the United States of America. My attorney advises me that the committee's actions are within its First Amendment rights as delineated by the United States Supreme Court;
- (2) The matter at issue regards a mailing I conducted within Rensselaer County for presidential delegate petitions in the 22nd Congressional District. The mailer constituted a notice mailed to my entire Executive Committee (approx. 22 members) that presidential delegate petitions supporting George W. Bush were available to be picked up. The only expense of the county committee in this process was the extremely nominal expense of one piece of stationary and 22 copies. I paid for all of the postage myself.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

James A. Walsh
Chairman
Rensselaer County Republican Committee